

Hobbies

Congress lines up a bundle of commemorative issues

By Roger Boye

A bevy of commemorative coin proposals has made its debut in Congress amid cries of "numismatic overkill" in the hobby press.

The 1990s already are destined to become the most prolific decade for commemorative coinage in U.S. history, thanks to legislation passed last year. Among other things, Uncle Sam is slated to produce 16 coin types to honor the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta and three to mark the 50th anniversary of World War II.

Hobby publications have noted that many collectors won't be able to afford so many new issues and coin sales may fall far short of projections.

The new proposals call for coins to honor, among others:

- The 250th anniversary this year of the birth of Thomas Jefferson.

- Prisoners of war.
- Women who served in the military during the Vietnam War.
- The 200th anniversary of the United States Mint and production of the first U.S. coins.
- Independence Hall in Philadelphia.
- The 10th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

● ● ●

The publisher of coin collecting's popular "Red Book" has issued a companion reference on paper money.

The 336-page guide provides retail values for all U.S. paper money.

For a copy of the "Guide Book of United States Currency," visit a coin shop or book store, or send \$13.95 plus \$3 postage to Western Publishing Co. Inc., Whitman Coin Products, Dept. 438, P.O. Box 700, Racine, Wis. 53401.